

REMARKS

I. Introduction

At the time of the Office Action dated May 5, 2006, claims 1-8 were pending in this application. In this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 have been amended, and new claims 9 and 10 have been added. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Adequate descriptive support for the amendment of claim 1 and new claim 9 can be found in, for example, Fig. 1 and relevant description of the specification. Adequate descriptive support for new claim 10 can be found on, for example, page 22, lines 16-19 of the specification. Claim 8 has also been amended only for better form.

Now, claims 1-10 are active in this application, of which claim 1 is independent.

II. The Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because the “drive unit” in claim 7 is not disclosed in the drawings. This objection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant notes that for example, Fig. 3 illustrates “circuit board 8 provided with a drive circuit for driving the lighting unit UT and the liquid crystal panel 6,” (see page 18, lines 10-13 of the specification (emphasis added)). Thus, circuit board 8 shown in Fig. 3 of the present application encompasses the claimed “driving unit.”

Accordingly, the “drive unit” is disclosed in the drawings, and thus, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully solicited.

III. The Rejection of Claims 1-4

Jang et al.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Jang et al.

In the statement of the rejection, the Examiner identified lamp 220, reflecting sheet 250 and metal reflecting plate 230 of Jang et al. in Fig. 4 as the claimed light source, reflecting sheet and hold sheet, respectively.

In this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the hold sheet holds the whole reflecting sheet. In contrast, Jang's metal reflecting plate 230 purportedly corresponding to the claimed hold sheet, holds only part of reflecting sheet 250 as shown in Fig. 4 of Jang et al. Accordingly, the claimed invention is different from what is disclosed by Jang et al.

Mashino et al.

Claims 1-4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mashino et al. Mashino et al. discloses a liquid crystal display similar to Jang et al. in arrangement of elements, such as light guide 37, reflective sheet 38 and lamp reflector sheet 66 (see, Fig. 1A). Thus, Applicant notes that the discussion set forth above is applicable to this 102(b) rejection.

Ogura

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ogura. Ogura in Fig. 1 discloses light source 1, reflector 2, reflection sheet 3, frame 8 and embossed sheet 11. None of these elements of Ogura holds the whole reflecting sheet 3.

Accordingly, Jang et al., Mashino et al., and Ogura do not identically disclose a light unit including all the limitations recited in independent claim 1. Dependent claims 2-4 are also patentably distinguishable over the cited references at least because these claims include all the

limitations recited in independent claims. Applicant, therefore, respectfully solicits withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102, and favorable consideration thereof.

III. The Rejection of Claims 5 and 6

Claims 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jang et al. in view of Koura. Applicant submits that the applied combination of Jang et al. and Koura does not teach all the limitations recited in independent claim 1 upon which claims 5 and 6 depend. Koura does not teach, among other things, the claimed hold sheet for holding the whole reflecting sheet as recited in claim 1, and thus, does not cure the deficiencies of Jang et al.

Accordingly, claims 5 and 6 are patentably distinguishable over Jang et al. and Koura at least because these claims include all the limitations recited in independent claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is, therefore, respectfully solicited.

IV. The Rejection of Claims 7 and 8

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jang et al. in view of Hong et al.; and claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jang et al. in view of Koura and further in view of Hong et al.

Applicant submits that Jang et al., Koura and Hong et al., either individually or in combination, do not teach all the limitations recited in independent claim 1 upon which claims 7 and 8 depend. Koura and Hong et al. do not teach, among other things, the hold for holding the whole reflecting sheet as sheet recited in claim 1, and thus, do not cure the deficiencies of Jang et al. Accordingly, claims 7 and 8 are patentably distinguishable over the three references at least because these claims include all the limitations recited in independent claim 1.

Moreover, Applicant notes that this rejection should be overcome because Hong et al. has an effective filing date of June 27, 2003, which is not earlier than the international filing date of the present application, September 19, 2002.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully solicits withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103, and favorable consideration thereof.

V. New Claims 9 and 10

New claims 9 and 10 are patentably distinguishable over Jang et al., Mashino et al., Ogura, Koura and Hong et al. at least because the claims include all the limitations recited in independent claim 1. Favorable consideration of claims 9 and 10 is respectfully solicited.

VI. Conclusion

It should, therefore, be apparent that the imposed rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

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including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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